

April 23, 2004

Jeff Koenings, *Director*
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98504

Billy Frank, Jr., *Chair*
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
6730 Martin Way E
Olympia, WA 98516

Dear Mr. Koenings and Mr. Frank:

We are writing to express our strong support for implementation of hatchery reform as developed by the Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG). We feel the HSRG's principles and system-wide recommendations provide a foundation for much-needed systemic reform of the world's oldest and largest hatchery system. Hatchery reform is critical for the conservation and recovery of naturally-spawning salmon and steelhead and for sustainable fisheries in the long-term.

While we expect to take a closer look at the HSRG's 1000-plus program-specific recommendations we accept them as the logical outcome of the HSRG's rigorous application of their scientific framework, principles and tools to the more than 200 hatchery programs in Puget Sound and coastal Washington.

We understand that hatchery reform will take time and significant financial investments to achieve. We pledge to support your implementation efforts at the Legislature, in Congress, and with the general public, should the HSRG's recommendations and approach form the basis for your reforms.

We have identified two important near-term opportunities for hatchery reform implementation. We believe the co-managers should incorporate the HSRG's principles and recommendations into Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans and Resource Management Plans. We see the "integrated/segregated" genetic management concept, as defined by the Hatchery Scientific Review Group, as a central component of these plans. We further suggest the HSRG's principles and recommendations be a central tool in development of the state's new steelhead management plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeff Curtis, *Western Conservation Director*
National Trout Unlimited

Frank Haw, *Senior Fish Biologist*
Northwest Marine Technology, Inc.

Tony Floor, *Director of Fishing Affairs*
Northwest Marine Trade Association

Liz Hamilton, *Executive Director*
Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association

Clint Muns, *President*, South Sound Chapter
Puget Sound Anglers

Mike Gilchrist, *Co-Chairman*, Washington Chapter
Recreational Fishing Alliance

Terry Turner, *President*
Washington Council of Trout Unlimited

Bill Wilkerson, *Executive Director*
Washington Forest Protection Association

Mark Cedergreen, *Executive Director*
Westport Charterboat Association

Nathan J. Mantua, *Vice-President for Science and Education*
Wild Steelhead Coalition

Bill Robinson, *Fish Advocate*

Frank Urabeck, *Fish Advocate*

Cc: Jim Anderson, Executive Director, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission; The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission; U.S. Representative Norm Dicks; U.S. Senator Patty Murray; U.S. Representative Jennifer Dunn; Lars Mobrand, Chair, Hatchery Scientific Review Group; Barbara J. Cairns, Executive Director, Long Live the Kings